

# City of Redmond Parks and Trails Commission

Redmond City Hall  
Council Conference Room  
Thursday, February 4, 2016

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

---

## **Parks & Trails Chair and Vice Chair Present**

Aaron Knopf  
Joel Cherkis

## **Commissioners Present**

Tom Sanko  
Cindy Pauley  
Gary Smith  
Heather Shute

## **Commissioners Absent and Excused**

Tanika Padhye  
Nicholas Lee

## **Staff Present**

Carolyn Hope, Parks & Cultural Services Division Manager  
Katie Anderson, Parks & Recreation Director  
Dave Tucheck, Park Operations Division Manager  
Mark Hickok, Recreation Division Manager  
Jessica Rubenacker, Cultural Arts Administrator  
Betty Sanders, Senior Park Planner  
David Shaw, Senior Park Planner

Guests: Gregg Gottgetreu and Shailee Jain

## **I. Call to order/Welcome**

Chair Knopf called the meeting to order welcoming fellow commissioners, guests, and staff members.

## **Approval of the January 7, 2016 Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Cherkis to accept the January agenda with amendments of two additions to Project Updates – Special Event Permit Process and Derby Days Update  
Second by Commissioner Sanko

Motion carried: 6-0

**Approval of January 2016 Minutes**

Amendment to Minutes – “Aaron Knopf was nominated as Commission Chair by Commissioner Sanko”, remove “Aaron Knopf was nominated at Vice Chair”, “Commissioner Cherkis was nominated as Vice Chair”

Motion by Commissioner Pauley to approve the minutes as amended

Second by Commissioner Sanko

Motion carried: 6-0

Introduction of Gary Smith to the Commission

Commissioner Smith lives in Redmond and served on the Redmond Trails

Commission prior to its merger into the Parks Boards (now the Parks & Trails Commission).

---

**II. Items from the Audience**

None

**III. Public Art Plan – Integration of Art and Parks (Jessica Rubenacker)**

Ms. Rubenacker updated the Commission on the current status and background of the Art Plan and asked commissioners to give their input on how they would like to see art integrated in parks. She explained that the Art Plan will be an appendix to the Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation Plan (PARCC) and the Arts and Culture chapter. Ms. Rubenacker has been working with EMC Consultants (Ellen Sollad and Carolyn Law) for the past year on the Plan. This public art plan will provide the city a complete and in depth vision for public art in Redmond for the next 20 years including the basic scale of public art, costs related to those projects and a prioritized list of projects.

**Public Outreach**

- 3 key findings
  - Arts in integral to advance quality of life in Redmond
  - Arts and Culture woven in and throughout the community
  - City should take a leadership role in promoting and supporting arts
- Online survey – 75% of Redmond residents is important for the community

**Goals of Aligning the Plan with City Policies**

- To create an exceptional public realm that distinguishes Redmond as a regional place of innovation and creative energy
- To express natural systems and infrastructures through artworks and promote experiential understanding
- To create platforms that transcends function to support community gatherings and special events

- To entice commuters to linger after the work day and have Redmond become a destination for regional visitors
- To promote a walkable culture with interconnected and sometimes idiosyncratic places and activities
- Engage people in a sweet relationship, quiet and intimate with the city

Strategic Approach – Leading with Art and Cultural Engagement (LACE) - Integrating art within all projects on the City level and evaluating the potential of art into capital projects).

#### Platforms

- When evaluating the city’s Capital Improvement Projects
  - Does the project have prominence the public realm?
  - What is the best opportunity or art platform for this specific project and what is the appropriate funding allocation?

#### Opportunities for integrating art into specific projects:

- Artist’s residencies throughout the City
- Collaborative teams of artists on board for the design phase
- Signature art pieces
- Investigating opportunities for interactive technology
- Incorporating temporary or femoral pieces into the community – art in parks
- Process or performance based art

#### Action Plan

- Three categories (Near-Term – Mid-Term – Long-Term)
- Near Term – emphasis on Downtown (DT Park Pavilion, Moving Arts Center, Signature art piece on Municipal Campus, Civic Artist in Residence, expand Redmond Lights – temporary art pieces, Art residencies throughout neighborhoods, temporary art installations – along trail or in parks, new media – partnering with DigiPen or Microsoft in City Hall, Redmond Live Ap)
- Mid-Term = emphasis on Overlake
- Long-Term = emphasis on city-wide and SE Redmond as developed

#### Next Steps

- Amendments to the Public Art Ordinance
  - Expanding the definition of Public Art to include performance and process based art (now strictly visual art)
  - Encourage art in the public realm by formally adopting “LACE” Strategy
  - New funding strategy (line item budget for Arts)

#### Comments

- Commissioner Sanko – would have been beneficial to have collaborated with the Arts & Culture Commission on the Esterra Park project (project is 30%

design to date). Should be concurrence with the master planning process or will miss opportunities.

- Rubenacker – “Currently working with staff to discuss future projects in alignment with the upcoming budget”
- Hope – “meeting with city staff next week to decide what projects to collaborate on as the department builds their budget for the new budget cycle (ex. civic artist-in-residence)”
- Chair Knopf – how do you measure success or meeting your intention?
  - Rubenacker – “will know over time” “want to know that the projects we are embedding are expanding in the public realm”
  - Hope – “call for art must meet themes or goals and expectations of the City
  - Rubenacker – (Example) “So Bazaar – business partnership, attendance, vendor relationships”
- Commissioner Sanko – do you have a working definition of art?
  - Rubenacker – “trying to expand the definition of art with the public art ordinance to reflect contemporary art practices (performance based) and process and outreach based art (dialogue about war and the impact on communities)”
- Chair Knopf – in the survey 75% wanted to see the continuation of art, was there some boundary put on what that meant?
  - Rubenacker – “was left as an open ended question”
- Vice Chair Cherkis – interested in what the new signature public art piece is for the main campus
  - Rubenacker – “not decided yet”
- Commissioner Smith – was surprised that Redmond had no requirements for art in private development; is the public art fund all public money?”  
“Development (Carter Building) located by Dudley Carter Park is asking for donations for art to be installed in their building”.
  - Hope - “the Downtown Cultural Corridor Plan talks about working with private development as a strategy, opportunities to work with private developers - first step (key places, types of art)”

#### Timing

- February – final Art Plan
- February 22 – present final Art Plan to the Arts Commission
- March 22 – present plan to the City Council

#### **IV. Canopy Goal Update (David Shaw) (PP)**

Mr. Shaw announced that it has been proposed that a city-wide Tree Canopy Goal be elevated to the level of a Budgeting by Priorities dashboard measure. The Canopy Goal is part of the PARCC Plan Conservation Chapter.

The Canopy Goal will be part of the Clean and Green category of Budgeting by Priorities. Mr. Shaw added that there has been broad support by City Council.

The proposal to City Council will elevate the Canopy Goal to the same level as the city's already established, "access to a park or trail within ¼ mi. walking distances for every resident from home or work."

Tree Canopy – (any tree 4' in diameter, 10' in height)

- Umbrella that covers several city goals
  - City controlled property = 40.4% of existing canopy cover
  - Unprotected = 47.8%
  - Regulatory = 11.8%
- City-wide at 37% of our land mass covered within the city – park controlled parcels (LIDAR – 2014)
- Achieve 45% citywide in 50 years
  - 8% point increase
  - 860 acres to expand
  - Includes ebb and flow (dying, replacement, development, replanting)
- Getting to 45% Canopy - Opportunities
  - Natural areas – limited and regulated
  - Stream buffers – limited and regulated – provides the bulk of acreage canopy opportunities 400+ acres
  - City parks (city controlled property ) – 644 acres of opportunity on public land = 6% up – includes Sammamish River Trail
  - Protects additional land
  - Public education program to encourage tree planting – need to protect 220 more acres of canopy on public and private lands = 2% up – voluntary tree plantings on private property – incentives to plant on private property
  - NGP – Native Growth Protection Easement
- Getting to 45% Canopy - Rate of Planting (chart)
  - Current programs – 10 acres a year
  - 45% in 50 years = 17 acres a year
  - Rate of standards – American Forests
  - City owned property alone can meet goal of 45% canopy
  - Every 2 years will be reviewing how many trees have been planted
- Next Steps
  - Propose a Comprehensive Plan Policy Amendment
  - April/May - Planning Commission Process

### Comments

- Commissioner Smith – problem is access along stream buffers which are either conservation easements or controlled – special strategies to take advantage of those areas

## **V. Project Updates**

### **A. RCC Ph. II Invasive Removal Work Party (David Shaw)**

- RCC Ph. II out to bid
- Received a grant which has a volunteer hour(s) requirement
  - \$1,000 of volunteer work = \$15 per hour = approx. 70 hours = 20 to 30 people x \$15 = 3 to 4 hours per volunteer - possible 1 to 2 work parties depending on number of volunteers and hours worked
- Invasive weed removal – Scotch Broom and Blackberry bushes
- Possible volunteer work party dates - March 12, 19, and/or 26
- Weekday volunteer event may be possible
- Chair Knopf will inquire about volunteers from Microsoft
- Possible volunteer \$\$ match from some companies – staff will inquire

### **B. Community Outreach for PARCC Plan (David Shaw)**

- One more phase
  - Reiterated what staff heard at previous community meetings and where they will go with the information
  - Public meeting – April 6, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – to present responses from last meetings and to get ideas and feedback
  - Three public meetings last year were lightly attended
  - Proposal for April meeting – in-person and online meeting – use City Council Chambers to present highlights carrying forward to PARCC Plan – interactive online and in-person ability to participate ( Poll Everywhere) – record meeting so everyone has the ability to comment, question, and give feedback
  - Staff asked commissioners to broadcast event to neighbors, friends, family, co-workers
  - Article in next City of Redmond Focus magazine will have key topics/ideas covered

### **C. Recreation Building Updates and LWSD Bond (Mark Hickok)**

#### Redmond (Hartman) Pool

Mr. Hickok reported that on February 9 staff will go to Council Study Session and propose that \$100,000 be invested in the pool to address some of its immediate concerns (boiler controls – cannot be replaced due to age and unavailability of parts). Staff is hoping that the \$100,000 will keep the pool working for at least another year. This presentation is to inform the Council, no action will be taken.

Mr. Hickok noted that staff did not want to shut down the pool due to community demand and use; it also gives staff time to consider future options.

Funding for the repairs will come out of the city's Public Works Maintenance Fund (General Maintenance Fund).

More information to follow in the coming month(s).

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC) and Lake Washington School District (LWSD)

Mr. Hickok reported that the school district announced they will be floating a bond and that part of the bond will be to use the ORSCC as a pre-school location. If the pre-school locates to the ORSCC the city will no longer have access to the building.

At the LWSD's community meeting 75% of the participants agreed that the building should be used for a pre-school.

Two weeks prior the LWSD and City Council discussed the bond issue and its aspects.

Commissioners agreed that the pool situation is very important and to show commission support is as important as well.

Chair Knopf recommended continuation of this subject at the March meeting.

**VI. City-Wide Survey Results and Draft BP Survey Results (Carolyn Hope)**

Ms. Hope announced that the city-wide survey results were not available but would share the draft results of the online survey. The use of the results would be used in the budgeting process.

Ms. Hope reported that at the end of January there were over 500 online survey responses; almost 80% living in Redmond. Each person was asked to go each of the BP categories and rate each of the items they were most interested in within that category.

Ms. Hope went through each BP category to give examples of the questions.

More information as the budget process moves forward. The city-wide survey results will be presented at the April meeting.

**VII. Commission Talk Time (Aaron Knopf)**

A. Derby Days Scramble

Chari Knopf reported that at the last Derby Days event the city hired a company to run the Scramble there were approximately 300 to 400 participants. From staff perspective the events was very successful but more volunteers were needed. Staff suggested that in order to support the event sponsors were needed to offset the \$1,500 expense to hire a company to run the event.

Chair Knopf proposed that due to extenuating circumstances the Scramble should not take place this year but delayed until the 2017 Derby Days celebration. This would allow for earlier planning, more participation, and time to recruit sponsors for the event.

B. Director Hire Meeting Recap

Ms. Hope reported that no decision has been made yet on the new director position and that the Mayor is in the process of evaluating the three. She added that there were 128 applicants for the position.

Chair Knopf and Commissioner Sanko agreed that the final three candidates varied in personalities, backgrounds, and experience.

More information will follow.

C. National Trails Day

Ms. Hope inquired if the Commissioners would like to participate or put together an event for National Trails Day.

Suggestions:

- Work party along RCC
- “Adopt a Trail” type of project – similar to the “Adopt a Highway” project where sections of the highway are maintained by a group of individuals or businesses that would maintain it; similarly the “Adopt the Trail” would encompass the same type of idea. Signs could be put up along the trail stating who the trail was being maintained by.

Staff will discuss ideas and will get back to the Commission at the March meeting.

D. Eastside Rail Corridor Summit (Commissioner Sanko)

Commissioner Sanko reported that he had attended the day-long event which took place on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. He noted that elected county officials, Mayor Marchione, Sound Transit, and individuals from other jurisdictions attended the Summit.

The ES Rail Corridor is the section of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway that extends from Renton through Woodinville. The railway was abandoned by BNSF and Redmond bought the initial spur. The 100’ corridor is wide enough to accommodate a trail and transit. RCC, Ph. III will connect to



Kirkland in the next 6 years (dependent on budget and prioritization on a timeline). Commissioner Sanko compared the BNSF to the Atlanta BeltLine (<http://beltline.org/>) which was developed from a 22-mile long former rail lines, the trail allows for biking, hiking, running, jogging, rollerblading. etc.

Commissioner Sanko stated that in the near future the trails will eventually connect from Renton to Bellingham.

**V. Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Sheffer

Second by: Commissioner Sanko

Motion Carried: 6-0

**Next Regular Meeting**

March 3, 2016

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Council Conference Room

Redmond City Hall